

ALAN PHILLIPS — Not always popular with the crowd with his somewhat clumsy style, but still proved himself one of the best centre halves in the league with his total commitment. Played with a dislocated shoulder in the last few games of the season after returning from a business trip to America.

STEVE HARDWICK — Joined in the close season from Altrincham and proved to be a most stylish central defender. Because of other injury problems, was forced to play many games out of position but performed brilliantly in the last two months of the season, although tending to be a little casual with his back passes.

DAVE ALLANSON — Just settling in to his central mid-field role when badly damaging his knee against Croydon in November, an injury that kept him out for the rest of the season. Has just had 1½ cartilages removed from the knee and hopes to be fit by the start of the new season.

JOHN PRIESTLEY — Another player to suffer from knee problems — his injury came in the epic FA Trophy tie with Blyth and he missed the rest of the season. He has just had half a cartilage removed and also hopes to be fit by August. Was producing his best form when struck down.

HOWARD KENNEDY — Reserved his best form for cup-ties but scored only two goals in 34 league games. Forced to play out of position after injuries to Allanson and Priestley and never looked totally happy in his new role. Made captain after the first two months of the season.

MICK HOLIFIELD — Started as captain but the burden appeared to affect his game and he was relieved at the end of October. Reserved his best form for the last two months when he regained his zest for the game. The only player to escape injury, he played in every competitive match — 42 in the league and 13 cup-ties.

STEWART ATKINS — Coming from Chesham with a reputation as a goal scorer, he started with a bang, only to be laid low with a nagging hamstring injury. Took time to recover his form but by the end of the season was making as many goals for others as he was scoring himself. Still finished leading scorer with 16 league and cup goals.

TERRY SCOTT — Made a slow start as he struggled with a knee injury and his new surroundings. But steadily grew in confidence and showed an astute football brain for one so young. Good in the air, he laid on goals for others, and picked up the scraps to score himself as his tally of 15 shows.

DYLAN EVANS — The enigma of the side, he started brilliantly before losing his form in mid-season. Looked more effective in the closing stages when playing in mid-field but nevertheless was put on the transfer list.

STEVE LONG — A new signing from Burton Albion, he steadily improved as the season progressed, although being forced to play on the left side caused him problems. Scored some good goals with his head.

DEREK HARRIS — Never quite made it at top level and signed for Maidenhead for £500 and has scored goals for them.

LES REED — A signing from Hemel Hempstead, he worked hard both in mid-field and up front but never frankly looked good enough. Would not have played much if everyone else had been fit.

MARK JUDD — Signed in mid-season, the former Atherstone player scored a vital Trophy goal against Barking and looked an exciting prospect, until he went off to train with Walsall.

CHRIS WAY — Young goalkeeper signed on from Harefield on Spittle's departure. Looks a good prospect and will learn a lot as Maskell's deputy and could be his eventual successor.



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... leading scorer



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Close-up on the players

JOHN MASKELL — Although in his 36th year, he regained the number one goalkeeping spot and proved himself with several excellent performances, including two penalty saves. Susceptible to injury and missed several vital games.

PETER SPITTLE — Retired in mid-season to set up business in the film industry, after some indifferent performances as Maskell's deputy. Defence not nearly so assured when he played.

PAUL BIRDSEYE — When playing at right back still looked one of the best players in the league. But his sorties into mid-field were not successful and he occasionally struggled at left back.

BOBBY DAVIES — The regular left back, who proved another consistent player, even though not enjoying his football. This dissatisfaction has led to his 'taking a rest' from football.

KEITH MEAD — Although slower than he was, fought his way back into the side after being dropped and made his experience tell at the heart of the defence.